

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): A composition for forming a fire resistant material comprising a plurality of expandable beads of a polymeric material, wherein the polymeric material comprises 5 polystyrene, said beads being coated with an exfoliable graphite, characterised in that the exfoliable graphite is adhered to the beads with a resin having a solubility parameter of within substantially $0.5(\text{cal cm}^{-3})^{1/2}$ of the solubility parameter of the polymeric material.
2. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 characterised in that the resin comprises an emulsion comprising one or more of a styrene/acrylic copolymer, a styrene homopolymer, a vinylidene vinyl chloride copolymer, methylphenyl siloxane.
3. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ characterised in that the resin includes a halogenated flame retardant.

4. (original): A composition according to claim 3 characterised in that the resin includes a synergist comprising an oxide of an element of Group 6B of the Periodic Table.

5. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~ characterised in that the halogenated flame retardant comprises a brominated flame retardant.

6. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 ~~[[,]] 4 or 5~~ characterised in that the flame retardant comprises hexabromocyclododecane.

7. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 ~~[[,]] 4 [[,]] 5 or 6~~ characterised in that the synergist comprises tungsten oxide.

8. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 3 to 7~~ 4 characterised in that the synergist comprises yellow tungsten oxide.

9. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 characterised in that the expandable beads comprise partially expanded polystyrene beads.

10. (original): A method of forming a fire resistant material comprising: providing a composition according to any preceding claim; and thereafter causing or allowing said beads to expand and fuse together.

11. (currently amended): A fire resistant material comprising a composition according to ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 14 wherein the beads have been allowed to expand and fuse together.

12. (currently amended): A fire carrier formed of a fire resistant material according to claim 11 arranged between non-flammable outer skins where the fire resistant material contains sufficient exfoible graphite substantially to fill the cavity between the skins on expansion thereof after melting and loss of within substantially $0.5(\text{cal cm}^{-3})^{1/2}$ of the polymeric material in a fire situation.